

FACTSHEET ABOUT THE RENEWED CRUSHING AND SCREENING GENERAL PERMIT

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is proposing to renew an Air Pollution Control General Permit for Crushing and Screening facilities pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.), Title 18, Chapter 2 and Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.), Title 49, Chapter 3.

WHAT IS A GENERAL PERMIT?

A General Permit covers sources that are similar in nature, have similar emissions, and are subject to similar requirements. A General Permit differs from an individual permit in that it can apply to more than one source, is usually more restrictive, is less expensive and takes a shorter amount of time to obtain coverage.

When a source applies for coverage under an individual permit it must go through its own public notice and possibly a public hearing. Since the General Permit is written to cover sources that are similar, it must go through public notice and public hearing only once. Each source that is covered by the General Permit will not be required to go through its own public notice and public hearing. However, a list of sources that have been covered under the General Permit will be published periodically. This publication will be the public's only notification that a source has been given coverage under the General Permit.

Once a General Permit has been developed, sources may apply for coverage under the General Permit instead of obtaining individual permits. If the sources meet the criteria for coverage under the General Permit, an Authorization to Operate (ATO) is issued for each major piece of equipment covered under the permit. The ATO will allow for easy tracking of permitted equipment and will assist inspectors in verifying coverage while conducting inspections.

OVERVIEW OF THE RENEWED CRUSHING AND SCREENING GENERAL PERMIT

Crushing and screening plants are primarily engaged in the crushing, screening, size classification, material handling, and storage of nonmetallic minerals. The crushing and screening process begins by the removal of rock and crushed stone from a quarry by utilizing drilling and blasting. The quarried stone is then “loaded” by power shovel or front-end loader into large haul trucks that transport the material to the processing operations. Techniques used for extraction vary with the nature and location of the deposit.

Quarried stone normally is delivered to the processing plant by truck. At the processing plant, the quarried stone is sent through various crushing and screening circuits. The final product is a stone of various size which is either sold, used in concrete aggregate processing, or used to produce sand. For a more detailed description of crushing and screening plant, see Attachment 1.

Activities such as crushing, screening, size classification, material handling, and the storage of nonmetallic minerals produce particulate matter and PM₁₀ (particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal ten micrometers) emissions which are regulated by federal, state, and county environmental laws.

Most crushing and screening plants are the same size, have the same processes, operate under the same conditions, and have similar emissions and regulations. Therefore, ADEQ has decided to renew the Crushing and Screening General Permit.

The renewal Crushing and Screening General Permit (herein referred to as the General Permit) incorporates all applicable federal, state, and county regulations. It includes specific limits for emissions of particulates, oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulfur, and carbon monoxide. The General Permit also requires that plants utilize air pollution controls such as water spray bars, baghouses, and wet scrubbers to assure that federal, state, and county health standards are not exceeded.

The General Permit will continue to limit crushing and screening plants to a potential to emit PM₁₀ of less than 13.6 tons per year, and will also limit the potential to emit NO_x to less than 90 tons per year. The General Permit also limits operating schedules to not more than 16 hours per day throughout the state, and lesser hours of operation in Maricopa County based upon NO_x emissions from the electrical generating units covered under this General Permit.

The Permittee must demonstrate continuous compliance with the General Permit. This will be done through required performance testing, utilization of air pollution controls, and the keeping of operational records for a minimum of five years. The Permittee will also be required to submit written reports semiannually on the implementation of General Permit conditions.

JURISDICTION

The General Permit will cover stationary and portable sources that are under ADEQ jurisdiction. A.R.S. §49-480 will also allow Air Quality Control District (AQCD) of Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties to administer, inspect, and enforce the General Permit and issue Authorizations to Operate (ATOs) for sources under their jurisdiction.

Stationary sources wishing to obtain coverage under the General Permit will be required to apply to ADEQ unless they are in an AGCD. Portable sources wishing to obtain coverage under the General Permit will be required to apply to ADEQ except for portable sources which will operate for the duration of the General Permit in an AGCD. If the applicant meets the criteria for coverage under the General Permit, an ATO will be issued for each crusher, screen, and electrical generator.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

As a means for affecting the decisions governing the types of facilities that will or will not be allowed into a community, ADEQ highly encourages residents to participate in the local planning and zoning review process. This process is designed to allow residents the opportunity to express, on record, their interests and concerns relating to community growth and economic development.

Once a facility has been sited and submits an application for an air quality control permit as required by ADEQ, the department's role is to review the facility plans and determine the facility's ability to comply with applicable state air quality laws or regulations and, if necessary, to require changes that will ensure compliance. The department provides notice for public participation through comment periods and public hearings relating to the proposed permits. During these comment periods and hearings, citizens are entitled to express any concerns relating to the relevant facility. *However, in making a final decision, the department may only consider those comments that address the technical requirements in state air quality laws or regulations. The department's decisions must be based only on what the laws say we may consider.*

If there is any concern regarding the requirements established under the state laws or local ordinances pertaining to air quality, please contact the Air Quality Division at (800) 234-5677, Ext. 2316. ADEQ regularly provides, upon request, information to citizens and elected officials regarding the scope of the department's authority under the state law.

We encourage you to be more informed and involved in ADEQ activities. We need your involvement and support to protect our environment for all of Arizona's citizens.

To receive information about Arizona Department of Environmental Quality activities, please call (800) 234-5677 and enter one of the following extensions.

Automated Information Line – Ext. 4300

General Information – Ext. 2300

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality shall preserve, protect, and enhance the environment and the public health, and shall be a leader in the development of public policy to maintain and improve the quality of Arizona's air, land and water resources.

